

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-01 SP-02

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 0932

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, UK, IR

SUBJ: EC-IRAN RELATIONS: VISIT OF BRITISH TRADE MINISTER

REF: A) LONDON 1334, B) TEHRAN 886

1. BRITISH TRADE MINISTER PETER SHORE AND IRANIAN MINISTER OF
COMMERCE FEREIDOUN MAHDAVI SIGNED PROTOCOL ON JANUARY 29. WHILE
EMBASSY DOES NOT YET HAVE COMPLETE TEXT, FOLLOWING WAS SUPPLIED
BY BRITISH EMBASSY COUNSELOR ROBERT ALSTON AS ONLY REFERENCE TO
EC TRADE PREFERENCES ARRANGEMENT FOR IRAN IN PROTOCOL: "IN THE
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CONTEXT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN IRAN

AND THE EEC, THE BRITISH SIDE DECLARED ITS READINESS TO WORK FOR THE CONCLUSION OF A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT ALLOWING THE DESIREABLE DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN IRAN AND THE EEC."

2. ALSTON SAID IRANIANS HAD INSISTED ON "SOME MENTION" OF SPECIAL EC-IRAN ARRANGEMENT BUT HAD NOT PRESSED "TOO HARD" FOR STRONGER COMMITMENT FROM BRITISH SIDE. HE ADDED THAT BRITISH STRATEGY HAD BEEN TO COUCH WORDING IN AS VOGUE TERMS AS POSSIBLE. HE ALSO SAID BRITISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAD ADVISED OF ITS URGENT NEED FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ANY DISCUSSION IN TEHRAN ON EC PREFERENCES AND THAT FOR THIS REASON TELEGRAMS HAD BEEN SENT TO LONDON AND WASHINGTON LATE IN THE EVENING ON JANUARY 29. BRIEF REFERENCE WAS MADE TO

EC-IRAN ARRANGEMENT IN TEHRAN ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPERS REPORTING PROTOCOL ON JANUARY 30.

3. PRESS REFERS TO \$1.4 BILLION IN ECONOMIC COLLABORATION AND TRADE ENTIONED IN PROTOCOL. PRIMINENTLY MENTIONED ARE BRITISH SALE OF 15 CARGO VESSELS OF 18-20,000 TONS CAPACITY TO IRAN, ELECTRIFICATION OF TEHRAN-TABRIZ RAILWAY, CONSTRUCTION OF 100,000 HOUSING UNITS AND EVENTUAL ESTABLISHMENT OF PRE-FABRICATED HOUSING PLANTS IN IRAN, ASSISTANCE IN ESTABLISHING A MODERN FOOD DISTRIBUTION NETWORK IN IRAN, AND BRITISH TRAINING FOR EXPANDING THE IRANIAN CAPITAL MARKET AND IN AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING AND OTHER VOCATIONAL TRAINING. ALSTON SAID MOST OF THESE PROJECTS ALREADY WERE IN VARIOUS STAGES OF DISCUSSION WITH BRITISH PRIVATE FIRMS PRIOR TO MINISTER OF TRADE'S VISIT.
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